OVERFLOW RANGE SITE

1. TOPOGRAPHY

   a. This site occurs on bottomlands, along streams, and low terraces. Slopes are commonly from 0 to 3 percent.

2. SOILS

   a. These soils regularly receive additional moisture from flooding or run-in from higher land. Soils are deep, alluvial, moderately well to somewhat excessively drained. Available water capacity varies from low to high, depending upon soil textures.

   b. Soil taxonomic units common to this site are:

      Hanley loamy fine sand and fine sand
      Havre loam, silt loam, and clay loam
      Glendive fine sandy loam and sandy loam

      Refer to Section II-A for a complete list of soil taxonomic units and range sites.

3. POTENTIAL VEGETATION

   a. Both tall and mid grasses are site dominants for range in excellent condition. Also part of the vegetation is made up of several species of shrubs and trees. Principal species are green needlegrass, western wheatgrass, needleandthread, big bluestem, switchgrass, and prairie cordgrass. Other species are blue grama, little bluestem, slender wheatgrass, upland sedges, and porcupinegrass. Forbs make up a minor part of the herbage production. A variety of shrubs and certain species of trees may make up 10 percent of the total herbage produced.

   b. Continued heavy grazing by cattle results in a decrease of green needlegrass, big bluestem, switchgrass, prairie cordgrass, porcupinegrass, and little bluestem. Initially western wheatgrass and needleandthread increase with heavy use and then decrease if heavy grazing is continued. Species that increase are blue grama, Kentucky bluegrass, Penn sedge, fescue sedge, and undesirable forbs. Increaser species will dominate the site along with undesirable invader plants such as thistles if heavy grazing is prolonged for a period of several years.

   c. Approximate total annual production of this site in excellent condition is from 1950 to 2650 pounds of air-dry herbage per acre, depending on growing conditions.

2--Overflow Range Site

d. A detailed description of the vegetation in excellent condition is as follows:

Relative Percent Composition of the Potential Vegetation

	Mean Productivity	
	lbs/acre	% composition
Grasses		
Green needlegrass	460	20
Western wheatgrass	575	25
Needleandthread	230	10
Big bluestem	230	10
Blue grama	115	5
Switchgrass Prairie cordgrass Canada wildrye Porcupinegrass	115	5
Little bluestem Slender wheatgrass ~~Kentucky bluegrass~~ Other grasses	115	5
Grasslikes Penn sedge Fescue sedge Other grasslikes	115	5
Forbs American vetch Gray sagewort Woolly goldenrod Heath aster Maximillian sunflower Other forbs	115	5
Shrubs and trees Silver sagebrush Big sagebrush Western snowberry Chokecherry Buffaloberry Green ash Quaking aspen Other shrubs	230	10
Total	2300	100

3--Overflow Range Site

4. DOMESTIC LIVESTOCK GRAZING VALUE

a. This site is highly suited for both cattle and sheep grazing. The additional moisture received by the site increases total herbage production significantly and thus stocking rate potential, as compared to upland range sites. The best season of grazing is summer, although the site has spring, fall, and winter grazing values. Sites with woody vegetation provide cover for livestock during winter months.

5. WILDLIFE NATIVE TO THE SITE

a. This site is used by the mule deer, white-tailed deer, and antelope for forage and cover. Sites with more woody plants provide additional forage and cover for big game and other wildlife species. Small mammals that use the site are the coyote, badger, jackrabbit, and skunk. Upland birds commonly found are sage grouse, meadowlark, mourning dove, lark bunting, and horned lark. Common songbirds are red-winged blackbird, Baird's sparrow, western kingbird, and northern shrike.

6. ESTHETIC AND RELATED VALUES

a. The overflow range site adds variety of vegetation to the general landscape which is pleasing to the viewer. The vegetation produced on this site attracts many species of wildlife to be enjoyed by the wildlife enthusiast. Other types of recreation include hunting, hiking, and plant study.

7. HYDROLOGIC CHARACTERISTICS

a. Because of this site's low position in the landscape, it commonly receives extra run-in from snowmelt in the early spring or from summer thunderstorms. Runoff is slow and water transmission rate of the soil is slow to high, depending on soil textures.

8. A TYPICAL SITE LOCATION IN THIS AREA IS AS FOLLOWS